



St Ippolyts C.E. (Aided) Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs. R. E. Peddie BEd(Hons) NPQH

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Dear Parents,

Coronavirus outbreak: implementation of additional measures

Unfortunately, a coronavirus outbreak has been declared due to the number of positive cases here at St Ippolyts School.

In line with the latest national guidance and as required by the Public Health team of Hertfordshire County Council we are therefore **implementing our Outbreak Management Plan from Monday 29th November for a period of two weeks in the first instance.** After two weeks the situation will be reviewed and either the additional measures will be eased, or we will continue to operate in this way until the end of term.

Much of our outbreak plan is the same system we ran during 2020, so most parents will be familiar with how this operates. However, please read this letter fully so that you know what to do.

Staggered starts and finishes

IMPORTANT: With the staggered timings, there is a **specific time for drop off and collection.** There is not a window of time in which to arrive like there is when the school is operating normally. Please ensure that you arrive punctually, but not too early.

Please also leave the site quickly and efficiently after drop-off and avoid socialising around school. This is particularly important as we have such a narrow pavement outside school which can become congested.

	TIMES	DROP OFF & COLLECTION POINTS
Class 1	8.45 – 3.15	Class 1 gate at front
Class 2	9.00 – 3.30	Usual gate at back, main front doors at hometime
Class 3	8.45 – 3.15	Usual gate at back in the morning, top of the drive for hometime
Class 4	9.00 – 3.30	Playground for morning, top of the drive home time
Class 5	8.45 – 3.15	UKS2 yard
Class 6	9.00 – 3.30	UKS2 yard

Double bubbles

Each individual class is considered a separate 'bubble'

A system of 'double bubbles' will be used in Early Bird Club, playtimes and lunchtimes. The double bubbles are Classes 1&2, Classes 3&4, Classes 5&6. For playtime and lunchtime, the double bubbles will have the same time slot, but still be separated as much as possible – for example in separate zones on the playground.

Lunchtimes and breaktimes will also be staggered as before to avoid any mixing of the bubbles.

Face Coverings

Staff will be wearing face coverings when interacting with each other and we ask for parents to wear them on school grounds please.

Limiting activities

During the two-week outbreak, planned events / activities will be continually reviewed and risk assessments conducted to determine if these can proceed in line with an agreed system of additional controls or should be postponed.

These things cannot go ahead as planned:

Class 1 Nativity

With much regret, we must retract the invitation to have parents come into school to watch the Class 1 Nativity. Instead, this will be recorded, and you will receive an email with a link to view the video.

Class 5 Cake Day

This will not take place as planned and will be postponed until a later date.

Christmas Card post box

The whole school post box will not be operating as planned. Instead, classes will have their own individual post boxes like we did last year.

Swimming for Y3/4

Lessons have been suspended until after Christmas.

After school clubs

All clubs are now cancelled. New clubs for the spring term will be offered if we are able to at that time.

Guided tours and on-site meetings

Guided tours for prospective parents cannot take place.

Face to face meetings and visitors will not be able to happen on site unless absolutely necessary such as Child Protection support. Most meetings will be moved online.

These things can go ahead as planned, or with some minor adjustments:

Sports matches

These will be decided on a case-by-case basis and can go ahead, provided there is no increase of cases in the classes concerned.

Movie and Munch

This will go ahead as it is held in class bubbles anyway.

There is uncertainty with some events and activities, which will be determined by how the situation develops over the next two weeks. For example, the Children's Christmas Fair, the Carol Service, Christmas Dinner and Class Parties, will all be assessed and decided on over the coming days and weeks.

Other measures

- The re-introduction of desks in rows in Classes 3, 4 and 5.
- PE will mostly take place outdoors. Please ensure your child has warm clothing for this.
- Collective Worship will be held online
- Classrooms will have some shared resources removed to limit any cross contamination
- Year 6 will not be able to do their 'jobs' and responsibilities, such as buddies.
- Choir will be split into two: Class 5/6 and Class 3/4

Testing, isolating, attendance and remote learning

I will continue to notify you of any positive cases in your child's class, and I thank you for your cooperation thus far in arranging for them to have a PCR test. I absolutely appreciate that this can be very inconvenient, but many of our cases in children have been asymptomatic and only identified through a proper PCR (not a lateral flow home kit).

- If your child is positive, and well enough to do schoolwork, we will set learning on Google Classroom in the usual way.
- If there is a positive case in your household and you choose to keep your child off, we will provide learning.
- If your child is not in school while you await their PCR result, we will provide learning.
- If children are absent from school where there is **no Covid in the household**, this is marked as unauthorised, and they will not be provided with remote learning.

Please be patient when waiting for work to be uploaded. The teachers also have a classroom of children to deal with, so learning is unlikely to be uploaded instantly, especially when we have staff absence to cope with as well.

It is a significant pressure for teachers to be managing both remote and in-class teaching at the same time, and we are grateful for your understanding on this. There are class pages on the school website with a range of activities for them to do, and children also have their log ins for Bug Club, Times Tables Rockstars etc.

I completely understand that having an outbreak at St Ippolyts will have caused some anxiety and worry. Whilst many schools have been in the position before, sometimes several times, this is the first time we have had an official outbreak and it is natural to feel some concern.

Please do not rely on the 'grapevine' for news and updates; whilst the parent WhatsApp groups are great for keeping in touch with each other, the most reliable and accurate information will always come directly from the school, so do contact us if you are unsure about anything.

The reason that we have come this far without any significant outbreak is because of your amazing cooperation and understanding, working in true partnership with us to try and keep our children and staff safe. I can't thank you enough for this, and I know we will continue to unite as we face this new challenge together.

In the meantime, our thoughts and prayers are with those who are affected by Covid at this time, and we wish them all a speedy recovery.

Kind regards



Mrs RE Peddie
Headteacher